

THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

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ATTENDANCE

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Absent
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Present
Karen Martin	Absent
Dan Pondella	Present
Eric Stein	Present

Staff Present

Tom Ford, Executive Director
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Jack Topel, Environmental Scientist
Vicki Gambale, Water quality program manager

Members of the Public

Alex Steele, LACSD
Lucien (Lu) Plazoles, Santa Monica Audubon Society

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice chair Steve Bay called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Round robin introductions followed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None. Alex Steele from the LACSD said he is here to answer questions on the pH sensor special study proposal.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Order of the Agenda.

Approved with no changes. Steve informed the Committee that the TAC meeting will end at 11:00 and the group will reconvene for the Clean Beach Santa Monica Bay Task Force meeting.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Mas has minor revisions, including adding a few monitoring components of 1-mile outfall diversion to the record of his presentation in the June 2015 meeting minutes. He marked his changes on a hard copy and will give them to staff. Mas moved to approve the minutes as amended. John seconded. The minutes of the 4/3/15 and 6/29/15 meetings were approved unanimously.

c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

Chair and staff report: Chair Rich Ambrose was absent. There was no report from the vice-chair. Staff briefed the Committee on the Feb. 18, 2016 Governing Board meeting at which the TAC was reappointed. Eric asked if there was a debriefing of the State of the Bay report and conference at the GB meeting and if there was any public input. Tom responded that Rich presented the State of the Bay report at the GB meeting and the GB is generally positive about the report. Eric was also interested in whether the report will affect the way people doing business, influencing the decisions of the GB, influencing the funding decision. Tom pointed out that what we do and report on have effects on storm water litigation, etc. He pointed out that people such as staff at the Regional Board and EPA look for us for producing this synthetic piece. He also pointed out that we have a TAC with high caliber expertise and resources that other NEPs do not have, and we are ahead of other parts of the Country in terms of utilizing scientific expertise in our work. Mas suggested that we put management action recommendations into the SofB report. Steve asked about how the new format distributing the report works. Rainer mentioned that the Bay-Delta Council uses performance measures in its reports that the agencies in the region rely a lot on evaluating their programs and projects. Steve suggested that a debriefing on the State of the report be done at the next TAC meeting, including discussion on lessons learned and how to do it next time.

Guangyu informed the Committee the upcoming WAC meeting. Steve asked about how input from the WAC meeting was used to inform the work plan. Guangyu explained the process used to incorporate WAC comments into the annual work plan. Tom mentioned on-line survey used around WAC meeting time. Steve asked about if general public can participate and Tom answered that public can make comments at the WAC meeting.

There was no report from the MRAC which has been inactive. Tom mentioned that the wetland white paper project is now handled by Karina.

d. Member comments

Mas made two announcements. He informed the Committee that he was recently appointed chief scientist for the exide battery plant cleanup operation in the Boyle Height area. He also informed the Committee that Steve Weisburg, executive director of SCCWRP asked him to serve on the stakeholder advisory group on nutrient input to the ocean. Tom mentioned NOAA's new effort in addressing HABs under the newly amended Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) that he learned during the NEP directors meeting he recently attended in DC.

Eric mentioned that the National Academy of Science will have a series of international symposiums in late March on wetlands including the issue of using wetlands for water quality.

Rainer mentioned that there is a state-wide study on shore-based treatment of ballast water. The second workshop on the study will be held at Long Beach. He will let Guangyu know when it will happen. He also mentioned the National Academy of Sciences' Grand Challenge related to energy, water, and food – new research and training initiative He hopes will have west coast involvement and he is working on put together a panel and matching fund. He will send Guangyu the fact sheet.

Steve mentioned that SCCWRP annual report will be released on-line tomorrow.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Tom read a note from Rich which said he would be happy to serve again. Steve will also be happy to continue serve but welcome new blood and also suggested that the Committee may want to develop an expectation of rotation. Eric commented that it will be helpful to have a change.

Mas nominated Steve for Chair; John nominated Mas for vice chair. Eric seconded both nominations. The Committee voted and the nominations were approved unanimously.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

a. TAC roles and responsibilities

Tom gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities. Steve asked if there is time set aside to have TAC give specific input to the Governing Board. Tom replied that typically input is provided in the context of annual work plan and special presentations, unless we want to generate a TAC annual report.

How we get information that we need, the federal government needs, try to find more resources

b. TAC membership and recruitment of new TAC members

Tom talked about the need for additional TAC members in several categories. John suggested Jeremy Pal for his expertise in climate change modeling. Eric commented that discussion on specific candidates may be a bit pre-mature because climate change cover so many disciplines and need more discussion what that means. He thought we should first have a conversation after knowing the priorities of the TAC for the next five years. John commented that the focus should be on the BRP priorities. Rainer mentioned that his organization also struggled with the composition of its Scientific Board. He pointed out that there are useful science and usable science, and cautioned against looking on a five-year horizon only.

Steve asked if there is a limit on the number of TAC members, and what the criteria for qualification are. Tom re replied that there is no limit and in addition to adding members to the TAC, we also have mechanism to establish subcommittees.

c. Current work plan activities and specific tasks of the TAC in 2016

Tom presented a list of work plan tasks that requires TAC involvement specifically including Prop 84 proposal review, BMP/LID project effectiveness monitoring, climate change impact vulnerability assessment, monitoring data gap identification, and wetland white paper. On the subject of BMP/LID

effectiveness monitoring, Eric mentioned several on-going projects elsewhere in Southern California and pointed out that TAC should have the opportunity to get involved at the beginning of the BMP/LID project implementation. Steve suggested that the TAC should come up a list of required activities and specify the type of activities associated with BMP/LID monitoring.

Tom asked the TAC to think about and recommend what we can do to better prepare for more discussion at the next meeting on enhancing the comprehensive monitoring program to fill data gaps for next State of the Bay report. Mas suggested that the TAC make an effort to identify what we will do and not do next time. Rainer suggested that we should establish more links to management agencies and have the next report co-produced with those management agencies. Steve requested that this discussion be carried over to and put on the agenda of the next TAC meeting. Steve also requested continued discussion on TAC priorities at the next TAC meeting.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: INSTALLATION OF COASTAL ACIDIFICATION SENSING INSTRUMENT PACKAGE IN SANTA MONICA BAY

Guangyu presented the objectives of the project, the proposed collaboration with the LA County Sanitation District and the City of LA, and the proposed location of the sensor package. In response to questions from members, Alex Steele said that the County Sanitation District will have its mooring in two years and the mooring can move up and down the water column. The equipment purchased for this project will also measure pCO₂ and coordinate with other measurements at the site. The deployment location is considered representative of the Santa Monica Bay, providing better coordination with existing CTD monitoring by County Sanitation and City of LA. It will be in the mixing zone, and aimed at relative deeper depth as it has been observed that the deeper, the lower the pH.

Steve commented that the project is good by getting blessing from modelers and having thermistor array deployed at the same location.

Tom pointed out the project is nested in a bigger network, can help to look at ecological changes, and be tied to other projects such as the one conducted by UC Davis to get snap shots of physical, chemical profile in the area.

Steve asked if there is an outside oversight committee for this project. Mas pointed out that the oversight of this project will be provided at two levels, one by the project team and one by utilizing the Bight 13 group. Mas also pointed out that support from this group will help approval by the special study for this project by the LARWQCB. After asking around and seeing no additional concerns from members, Steve announced that TAC has full support for the project.